



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Visiting Japan Program for Congressional Leaders the 1st Slot Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Through this program, U.S. congressional leaders who are strong disseminators and who bear the future were invited to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, society, culture, history, diplomatic policies, and other such aspects of Japan through visits and exchanges at relevant locations in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Kyoto from November 22 to 28. By providing this opportunity, the program aimed to strengthen networks and further deepen U.S.-Japan relations.

【Participants】 Total: 9 U.S. Congressional Aides

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto

【Schedule】

■ Invitation Program:

Nov. 22 (Sat)	Arrival at Haneda Airport
Nov. 23 (Sun)	Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Zen meditation) experience (Shorin-ji Temple) 【Observation】 Fushimi Inari Taisha
Nov. 24 (Mon)	【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion 【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony experience 【Observation】 Kiyomizu-dera Temple Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo 【Observation】 Shinkansen Driver's Cab
Nov. 25 (Tue)	【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 【Opinion Exchange】 Luncheon Hosted by the Director of the North America Exchange Division, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA 【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Embassy in Japan 【Courtesy Call】 Japan Ministry of Defense 【Opinion Exchange】 Dinner with Young Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Nov. 26 (Wed)	Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa 【Observation】 United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka 【Observation】 Mikasa Memorial Warship 【Observation】 Yokohama Minato Mirai Area

Travel from Kanagawa to Tokyo

Nov. 27 (Thu)

【Observation】 Toyosu Fish Market

【Observation】 NTTe-City Labo

【Observation】 National Diet Building (House of Councillors)

【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation (NEC Future Creation Hub)

【Opinion Exchange】 Meeting with Diet Members, followed by dinner

Nov. 28 (Fri)

【Observation】 Asakusa

Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program



November 23 【Observation】

Fushimi Inari Taisha



November 24 【Cultural Experience】

Tea Ceremony experience



November 26 【Observation】

United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka



November 26 【Observation】 Mikasa Memorial

Warship

	
November 27 【Observation】 Toyosu Fish Market	November 27 【Observation】 NTTe-City Labo
	
November 27 【Observation】 National Diet Building	November 27 【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

I believe the visit to Kyoto left a deep impression on me. Seeing the old capital city and its temples made appreciate Japan's rich history and cultural heritage. Riding the bullet train was also a great touch to the trip. The train was impressive and demonstrates Japan's long and impressive technological heritage, along with its cultural heritage. The speed with which we got to Kyoto was impressive and it was great to see the Shinkansen up close. (...) This trip has reinforced for me that Japan is the United States' great ally and I am happy to have such a great partner in trade, defense, and friendship.

◆ Working Youth

I liked the balance of foreign policy, economy, and culture. I think it was great to spend each day focusing on a particular area. I also liked being able to meet with key private industries. One of the best meetings was with the Diet members. The cultural experiences were well-balanced and illuminated some of the best parts of Japan - including the nature and diverse foods.

◆ Working Youth

I really appreciated the thought and detail put into the whole program! Both company visits were a highlight and I liked speaking with their leaders to learn about opportunities, their needs, and directions they think it's going to! Appreciated all of the thoughtful conversations with MOFA and their expertise as well as the cultural activities.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

Grateful to be invited by the Embassy of Japan on a staff delegation last week to support Congressman Adrian Smith's leadership of the U.S.-Japan Caucus. We spent the week focusing on the U.S.-Japan partnership, highlighted by meetings centered on our trade, economic, and military cooperation. I look forward to continuing the Caucus's work and supporting a strong U.S.-Japan relationship.	December 4, 2025 (LinkedIn) Grateful to be invited by the Embassy of Japan on a staff delegation last week to support Congressman Adrian Smith's leadership of the U.S.-Japan Caucus. We spent the week focusing on the U.S.-Japan partnership, highlighted by meetings centered on our trade, economic, and military cooperation. I look forward to continuing the Caucus's work and supporting a strong U.S.-Japan relationship.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)